

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD

1. PRESIDENT FORD'S ASSURANCES TO PRESIDENTS SADAT OF EGYPT AND ASSAD OF SYRIA OF AN UNCHANGED U.S. MIDEAST POLICY COMMITTED TO A "JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA," AS WELL AS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SIMILAR LETTER TO KUWAIT'S FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMED RECEIVED VERY PROMINENT COVERAGE IN KUWAIT PRESS. SAMPLE HEADLINES: "FORD AFFIRMS TO SADAT THAT PEACE IS NO LONGER FAR AWAY; SADAT EXPRESSES HOPE FOR STRONGER RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON" (QABAS). "THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT STRONGLY AFFIRMS TO ARAB LEADERS THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE" (RAI AL-AAM).

2. KUWAIT'S ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS DR ABDUL RAZZAK AL-ADWANI DESCRIBED KISSINGER'S LETTER TO REPORTERS AS "VERY IMPORTANT TO US, SINCE DR KISSINGER HAS VISITED THE AREA AND KNOWS ITS PROBLEMS." "HE MET ARAB PRESIDENTS AND OFFICIALS AND CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION OF THE WHOLE AREA," DR ADWANI CONTINUED. "WE HOPE THAT THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL INCREASE AND WILL BE REFLECTED IN SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE AREA."

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN TWO ARABIC DAILIES IS UNFAVORABLE TO THE NEW PRESIDENT, BUT THIS ATTITUDE REPRESENTS NO CHANGE IN THE GENERALLY ANTI-AMERICAN POSTURE OF THE KUWAIT PRESS AND THE

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EDITORIALS SHOULD BE READ WITH THIS IN MIND. RAI AL-AAM OPINES

THAT BECAUSE MR FORD WILL WANT TO BE REELECTED IN 1976,
"HE WILL FIND HIMSELF COMPELLED TO PAMPER ISRAEL, EVEN AGAINST
SOME OF HIS FEELINGS...THE JEWISH VOTE IN THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE
TO POSE A GRAVE THREAT TO HIM."

4. QABAS TURNS A USIS-SUPPLIED STATEMENT OF FORD'S MIDEAST
VIEWS TOPSY-TURVY TO FIND THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS BASING HIS
IDEAS FOR A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT ON "TRADITIONAL AMERICAN
SOLUTIONS: THE DOLLAR AND THE COMPUTER*"
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